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**July 2, 2007**

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**ALTURAS PHYSICIAN OWEN MURPHY PANNER, JR. CONVICTED OF  
POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that physician OWEN MURPHY PANNER, JR., 60, of Alturas, California pleaded guilty today to one felony count of possession of child pornography. The guilty plea was entered before United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Modoc County Sheriff's Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

According to the plea agreement, the charge stems from PANNER's production and possession in 2001 of two videotapes of minor females, whom he videotaped as they underwent pelvic examinations. On July 18, 2001, PANNER covertly recorded on videotape a pelvic examination of a 15-year old female patient in his medical office in Alturas, California, using a microcamera carried in his breast pocket to capture the images of her genitalia on the videotape. On October 18, 2001, PANNER used a miniature camera secreted in the air vent above the examination table to record on videotape the breast and pelvic examination of a 16-year old female patient performed by a nurse practitioner in an examination room at the Modoc Medical Clinic.

In October 2004, two hunters in a sage brush field in Modoc County discovered the two videotapes, which had been concealed in a Tupperware-type container and buried in the ground. They notified law enforcement of their discovery. As part of the plea agreement, PANNER admitted that he produced the videotapes, in part, for sexual reasons, and that he kept the tapes because he is a "pack rat."

The maximum penalty for possession of child pornography is five years incarceration, a \$250,000 fine, three years supervised release, and a \$100 special penalty assessment. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

Sentencing before Judge Burrell is set for September 28, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. .

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